(b) whether Government has given its consent to the proposal of Government of Punjab to share a major part of the maintenance and upgradation cost of the strategic roads in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (b) No such request has been received. Department of Road Transport and Highways is not concerned with such declaration.

Reconstruction of Paradeep Port

2721. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the renovation and reconstruction of Paradeep Port which was extensively damaged due to cyclone;

(b) the details of the damage caused to that port and the progress of work as on date;

(c) the expansion and technological upgradation plan formulated if any for Paradeep Port; and

(d) the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked therefor for Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) & (b) : The estimated damage to the Paradeep Port Trust due to cyclone is Rs. 68.5 crores. An amount of Rs. 24.40 crores (approx.) has been spent on immediately reconstruction and rehabilitation works.

(c) & (d) : The expansion and technological upgradation of all Major Ports including Paradeep Port is a continuous process and works are undertaken as per the requirement of traffic and availability of resources. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 1200.00 crores has been approved for technological upgradation and development of the Port.

Enhancement of Road Safety on NH. 5

2722. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether NHAI has refused to implement a number of suggestions for road safety in different sectors of National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the local authorities of the NHAI have been given directions to improvise and incorporate suggestions on this score;

(c) if not, what are the specific standing directions to Project Managers along National Highway 5 in Andhra Pradesh to incorporate rational and practical suggestions to enhance road safety;

(d) the details of such standing instructions,

(e) whether any interaction is taking place with people concerned with road safety; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In reaches where the project preparation work is underwa y for 4-laning of various sections of NH5, proper safety measures are being included in the detailed project reports for implementation during execution.

A Manual for Safety in Road Design has been brought out by this Ministry. Indian Roads Congress has also published a number of standards concerning safety in the design, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. These are being adopted for National Highway works throughout the country including those entrusted to NHAI.

(e) The Project Implementation Unit of NHAI and the Consultants engaged for preparation of detailed project reports are constantly interacting with the local administration and other authorities for enhancing the road safety measures of NH5.

(f) Does not arise.

Building of Landing Wharves

2723. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes available with the Inland Waterways Authority of India to build wharves along useable canals and rivers actually being used for inland water transport.

(b) the funds allocated for this purpose in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for the building of landing wharves by Government in different States;